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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

SALIARD, SHANNON S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3639

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/897,125	YANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shannon S. Saliard	3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 7/03/01 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09897125.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/03/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'A' or 'R'.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference numbers in **Figures 6-8**, as well as there are no reference numbers for aforementioned figures in the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to because there are numerous spelling and grammatical errors. For example, in Figure 12, the decision boxes "Is Request Validity?" and "Is the Member?" appear to be improperly noted. Also, the process box "Joining the Membe" appears to be misspelled and it is unclear what the applicant is attempting to set forth in this process. Therefore, corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being

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amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. **Claims 1, 5-7, 9-11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 22-26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the information network reservation services" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the international reservation" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the resulting response" in lines 9-10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the check result" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the air ticket" in lines 14-15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the airfare information" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The limitation "an online reservation" as recited in line 18 of **claim 1** is vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the examiner what the applicant is attempting to set forth.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the departure city" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the multiple flights" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 7 and 19 recite the limitation "the classes thereof" in lines 3 and 2, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This limitation is also vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the examiner what the applicant is attempting to set forth.

Claim 9 recites the limitation "the information provided by the internal database" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 10 and 26 recite the limitation "the flight services" in lines 2 and 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 10 and 26 recite the limitation "the airline companies" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Regarding **claim 10**, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the online reservation device" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "the identity security data" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "the trading party" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This limitation is also vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the examiner what the applicant is attempting to set forth.

Claim 15 recites the limitation "the flight" in line 11. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the reservation request conditions" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 18 recites the limitations "the multiple flights" and "the travel plan" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 22 recites the limitation "the departure of another flight" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This limitation is also vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the examiner what the applicant is attempting to set forth.

Claim 23 recites the limitation "the most economical airfare principle" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This limitation is also vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the examiner what the applicant is attempting to set forth.

Claim 24 recites the limitation "the least number of flights principle" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This limitation is also vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the examiner what the applicant is attempting to set forth.

Claim 25 recites the limitation "the database is obtained" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This limitation is also vague and indefinite. It is unclear to the examiner what the applicant is attempting to set forth.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15-17, 19, 20, 23, 25, 27 and 32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jafri et al [U.S. Patent No. 5,832,454].

As per **claim 1**, Jafri et al discloses an international airline ticket reservation system for providing at least one traveler who uses a terminal device distributed over the information network reservation services of international multiple-stop tickets, which system comprises: a global ticket reservation and sales center, which provides real-time information of global airlines through the information network, accepts a reservation request made by the traveler through the information network and replies a valid response to the reservation request (col 1, lines 58-65); a sales interface, which allows the traveler to enter a request message relevant to the international reservation through the terminal device, and displays the resulting response to the request message; an international multiple-stop reservation unit comprising: a flight checking device, which checks whether the request message is valid and replies the check result to the sales interface; an airfare calculation device, which calculates a final sales price for the air ticket according to the airfare information provided by the global ticket reservation and sales center and responds the final price to the sales interface; and an online reservation, which sends out the request message to the global ticket reservation and sales center through the information network and responds the sales result to the sales interface (col 2, lines 44-63).

As per **claim 2**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the information provided by the global ticket reservation and sales center comprises reservation information for international multiple-stop tickets (col 3, lines 49-51; col 5, lines 38-40).

As per **claims 5 and 17**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the request information relevant to international flight reservation entered by the traveler through the

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terminal device comprises: the departure city, departure time and arrival city of at least one flight (col 4, lines 53-57).

As per **claims 7 and 19**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the request information relevant to international flight reservation entered by the traveler through the terminal device further comprises: the number and identities of travelers and the classes thereof (col 2, lines 34-35; col 7, lines 44-47).

As per **claims 8 and 9**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the flight check device checks whether the request message is consistent with the global flight information provided by the global ticket reservation and sales center so as to determine whether any flight service can satisfy the request message (col 4, lines 53-65).

As per **claim 11**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the online reservation device is a network modem (col 2, lines 61-63).

As per **claim 12**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the terminal device is selected from the group comprising a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a mobile phone, and a notebook that can establish communication with the information network (col 1, lines 47-53).

As per **claim 15**, Jafri et al discloses an international ticket reservation method implemented through an information network comprising: obtaining a ticket reservation request message of a travel plan that comprises a departure city, a departure time, and an arrival city through the information network (col 4, lines 53-57); checking the validity of the reservation request message by finding in a database whether there is a flight service that can satisfy the request message so as to determine the validity of the

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request message (col 4, lines 57-63); generating a reservation denial message when there is no such flight service in the database that can satisfy the ticket reservation request message (col 3, lines 53-56); and providing the flight and airfare information of an international flight that satisfies the reservation request message in the database (col 3, lines 49-51).

As per **claim 16**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the ticket reservation request message is obtained by converting the reservation request conditions entered by the traveler at one terminal device distributed over the information network into the request message (col 5, lines 22-26).

As per **claim 20**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the international flight information contains information regarding a plurality of multiple-stop flights that satisfy the request message (col 4, lines 63-65).

As per **claim 23**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the multiple-stop flight information is arranged according to the most economical airfare principle (col 5, lines 1-10).

As per **claim 25**, Jafri et al further discloses wherein the database is obtained through an information network from a global ticket reservation and sales center connected to the information network (col 3, lines 44-48).

As per **claim 27**, Jafri et al further discloses further comprising a step of calculating a final price to obtain a final price according to the airfare information and airfare calculation formulas provided by the database (col 10, lines 6-12).

As per **claim 32**, Jafri et al further discloses further comprising the step of providing a suggestion to the traveler when the request message is invalid, the suggestion being providing the closet flights to the traveler's original plan and slightly modifying the departure time of his plan so that the traveler's plan can be completed thereby (col 3, lines 53-57).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. **Claims 3, 4, 6, 18, 21, 22, 24, 29 and 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jafri et al [U.S. Patent No. 5,832,454].

As per **claims 3 and 29**, Jafri et al discloses all the limitations of claims 1, 15, and 27. Jafri et al does not explicitly disclose wherein the global ticket reservation and sales center at least provides: flight information including flight zones, departure and arrival cities, departure and arrival times and flight information; ticket fare information including airfare calculation formulas, ticket face values, ticket face value coefficients, flight zone ticket information, stop city charge information, and promotion airfare information; and sales information including airlines codes, reservation codes. However, Jafri et al discloses a computer reservation system that provides proposed itineraries to customers including flight and cost information (col 6, lines 60-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the global ticket reservation system to provide all necessary information to present a customer with an accurate price.

As per **claim 4**, Jafri et al discloses wherein the flight information further comprises: airlines companies and flight classes (Fig. 2; col 7, lines 32-38). Jafri does not explicitly disclose that the flight information provided by the reservation system includes airplane models. However, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of the invention to include airplane model information. This information is important to customers who do not prefer to fly a particular style of plane (e.g. jet).

As per **claims 6, 18 and 22**, Jafri et al discloses all the limitations of claims 1, 5, and 15. Jafri et al does not explicitly disclose wherein at least the arrival city of one flight is the departure city of another flight in the multiple flights. However, Jafri et al discloses an international flight reservation that has multiple segments (col 5, lines 38-40). Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the arrival city of one flight to be the departure city of another flight. During multiple segments flights, a passenger will arrive at one city to depart from that same arrival city to get to the final destination.

As per **claim 21**, Jafri et al discloses all the limitations of claims 15 and 20. Jafri et al does not explicitly disclose wherein the information of the plurality of multiple-stop flights includes the flight information, departure city, departure time, arrival city, and arrival time of each flight. However, Jafri et al discloses that passenger record and the associated flight itineraries are displayed for the user (col 10, lines 6-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the cities and times of the departure and arrival as is typical in airline itineraries.

As per **claim 24**, Jafri et al does not explicitly disclose wherein the multiple-stop flight information is arranged according to the least number of flights principle. However, Jafri et al discloses that any possible number of flights will be displayed (col 4, lines 59-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to display a minimal amount of flights, so that the customer does not have to sift through many results before deciding on one itinerary.

As per **claim 33**, Jafri et al does not explicitly disclose wherein the suggestion further comprises suggesting the traveler to contact airlines companies to ask for their assistance. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a message suggesting that the customer contact an airline company or representative for assistance if they were unable to retrieve results that satisfied their request. It is common that if a user is unable to get a computer to obtain information requested, the user will ask for assistance.

6. **Claims 10, 26 and 28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jafri et al [U.S. Patent No. 5,832,454] in view of Lynch et al [U.S. Patent No. 6,839,679].

As per **claims 10 and 26**, Jafri et al discloses all the limitations of claims 1 and 9. Jafri et al does not disclose wherein the database comprises: a direct flight city file, which stores all arrival cities that the flight services can reach; a city code file, which stores all departure cities that provide the flight services; and a flight file, which stores information such as the airlines companies, departure cities, arrival cities and transfer cities. However, Lynch et al discloses an international reservation system that accesses a database with information on the arrival city, departure city, and airline companies (col 4, lines 2-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Jafri et al to include

the system disclosed by Lynch et al because the database information is necessary to process the travel request of the user.

As per **claim 28**, Jafri et al discloses all the limitations of claims 15 and 27. Jafri et al does not disclose further comprising the calculation of stop city charges and promotion airfares. However, Lynch et al discloses a reservation in which the airfare calculation considers multiple segments charges and promotional discounts (col 7, lines 34-46; col 8, lines 28-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Jafri et al to include the method disclosed by Lynch et al to display to the customer the exact cost of booking a particular flight.

7. **Claims 13, 14, and 31** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jafri et al [U.S. Patent No. 5,832,454] in view of Lefkowitz [U.S. Publication No. US 2001/0037250].

As per **claims 13 and 31**, Jafri et al discloses all the limitations of claims 1 and 15. Jafri et al does not disclose further comprising a sales processing device to verify the identity security data of the trading party and to complete the ticket reservation in the global ticket reservation and sales center. However, Lefkowitz discloses an international airline ticket reservation system that allows a ticket to be purchased after verifying customer identity (0055). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Jafri et al to include the system disclosed by Lefkowitz for convenience to the customer of not

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having to set up two accounts (i.e. one for airline reservations and one for ticket purchasing).

As per **claim 14**, Jafri et al does not disclose wherein the sales processing device comprises a password input device for trading party. However, Lefkowitz discloses an international reservation system in which a password is used for purchasing of a reserved ticket (0046; 0058). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Jafri et al to include the system disclosed by Lefkowitz for security of the customer's personal information.

8. **Claim 30** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jafri et al [U.S. Patent No. 5,832,454] in view of Keller et al [U.S. Publication No. US 2001/0053989].

As per **claim 30**, Jafri et al discloses all the limitations of claim 15. Jafri et al does not disclose further comprising the step of keeping the ticket reservation request message when the request message contains a reservation message until the database has a service that satisfies the reservation request message, notifying the traveler through the information network in a wired or wireless method, and waiting until the traveler responds. However, Keller et al discloses an airline reservation system in which a customer is notified at a later time that a flight that meets the customer's requirements is available (0042). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Jafri et al to

include the method disclosed by Keller et al. Keller et al provides the motivation that flight fares and conditions change numerous times daily suggesting that a flight that meets the customer's requirements may later become available (0039).

Conclusion

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shannon S. Saliard whose telephone number is 571-272-5587. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

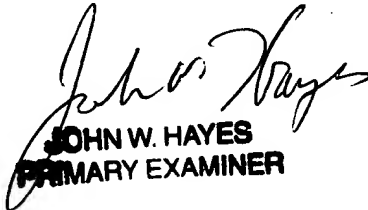
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shannon S Saliard
Examiner
Art Unit 3639

SSS


JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER